

some of those cuts—including the 10 percent tax bracket, the increased child credit, and relief from the marriage penalty—all of which should be made permanent, but this conference report is not the place for an all-or-nothing approach to the entire list. We will have time later to consider which of the rest of President Bush's tax cuts should be extended.

Consistent with that more responsible approach, this conference report allows for only a small increase in revenues above the levels assumed in the President's budget—an increase that can be accomplished through closing loopholes that enable some corporations and affluent taxpayers to take advantage of offshore tax havens, and by doing a better job of collecting taxes that are already due under current law.

Mr. Speaker, seven years of fiscal irresponsibility have left a legacy of deficits and debt that it will take time and work to overcome. But the sooner we begin, the sooner we will complete the job of restoring fiscal responsibility and reordering our national priorities—and now is the time to take an essential step forward by approving this conference report.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the conference report on the fiscal year (FY) 2009 Budget Resolution recognizes the importance of meeting our nation's infrastructure investment needs. Adequate investment in our transportation and other public infrastructure is critical to our nation's economic growth, our competitiveness in the world marketplace, and the quality of life in our communities. Despite the importance of these investments, many of our nation's infrastructure needs are going unmet.

Rather than addressing these unmet needs, the administration's FY 2009 budget proposed to cut virtually every infrastructure investment program within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, including highways, public transit, airports, Amtrak, wastewater treatment, and water resources development.

In contrast to the harmful cuts proposed by the administration, the conference report before us today fully funds highway, transit, and highway safety programs at the levels originally authorized in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The conference report rejects both the negative \$1 billion adjustment for Revenue Aligned Budget Authority, and the administration's proposal to cut highway and transit funding by an additional \$1 billion below the authorized levels, which would be detrimental to short-term economic stimulus efforts, as well as long-term economic growth.

For the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), the conference report rejects the \$765 million cut proposed by the administration, and instead provides the full amounts authorized in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 2881), as approved by the House last year. Specifically, the conference agreement allocates \$3.8 billion for AIP in FY 2008, increasing to \$3.9 billion in FY 2009, and to \$4.1 billion by FY 2011. This funding will allow the AIP program to keep pace with inflationary cost increases, and begin to address the investment gap in airport safety and capacity needs.

For Amtrak, the conference report rejects the \$525 million cut proposed by the adminis-

tration, which would essentially shut-down our national passenger rail system, and instead increases funding to meet the costs of Amtrak's new labor agreement, pursuant to Presidential Emergency Board 242.

For environmental infrastructure, the conference report rejects the administration's proposed cut to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program, the primary Federal program for funding wastewater infrastructure projects throughout the nation. A year ago, the President requested \$687.5 million in capitalization grants for CWSRFs for FY 2008. At that time, it was the lowest level requested by any administration since the creation of the program. For FY 2009, the administration requested a pitiful \$555 million, a 20 percent cut from last year's appropriation of \$689 million. The administration's proposal puts at risk the water quality gains achieved in recent decades, and the conference report correctly rejects this cut.

Finally, the conference report rejects the administration's proposal to cut funding for the Army Corps of Engineers by \$845 million in FY 2009, and instead provides increased funding to begin to address the growing backlog of water resources development projects, including those authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

I am also pleased that the conference report includes an Infrastructure Investment Reserve Fund, which provides the flexibility necessary to accommodate legislation to increase investment in our nation's infrastructure in FY 2009.

I look forward to working with Chairman SPRATT on continued improvements to our nation's infrastructure, and I urge my colleagues to support the conference report.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the FY2009 budget resolution. This budget includes nearly \$179 billion to fund the war.

Congress should not in good conscience vote to continue the Administration's illegal occupation of Iraq. The greatest tragedy of this war is the staggering loss of life, starting with the 4,091 brave men and women in U.S. military uniform. Tens of thousands more have been injured. Both of these numbers will continue to rise.

The U.S. policies in Iraq have failed as is evidenced by the fact that close to half of the population is struggling in extreme poverty. Estimates are that 1,000,000 innocent Iraqis have died as a result of the U.S. invasion. A reported 70 percent of Iraqis—nearly three quarters of the population—are without clean water; 80 percent lack effective sanitation; and 90 percent of hospitals lack essential surgical and medical supplies needed for Iraqi health and wellbeing.

Iraq's ability to meet the basic needs of its people is in shambles and our beloved troops remain in harms way. This body should act on the mandate of the American public given last November and bring our troops home now. Instead we continue to forfeit the public's trust with this unrelenting commitment to keep the war going when we have the power to end it. All it requires is a refusal to consider any legislation that contains or implies continued funding for this war.

The grand total for all defense related spending, including war funds and nuclear activities, is \$607.8 billion. This is 56% of all discretionary spending in the budget for FY09. In other words, this budget continues the same

failed policies that dedicate the majority of tax payer funds to defense spending while hard working Americans continue to struggle to afford basic necessities such as food, health care, homes and good schools for their kids.

The money in this budget that will go to fund war could be used to provide 39,912,404 people with healthcare; it could be used to offer an additional 1,053,429 affordable housing units; it could be used to provide 20,937,104 college level scholarships to the young minds of America. The budget should be reflective of America's priorities, but this budget falls far short of reflecting the priorities of the majority of Americans, so I oppose it.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank Chairman SPLATT for his leadership and for his hard work on this budget. I also want to thank all the staff, especially Tom Kahn and Scott Russell.

They have put together a very good budget that we should all support.

The Democratic budget restores vital funding to programs that will help American families during these difficult economic times.

The Democratic budget rejects the President's cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, rejects his cuts to food assistance and rejects his cuts to higher education.

Our budget will expand children's healthcare, increase support for first responders and for veterans, expand support for renewable energy initiatives and fund new green job training programs.

I'm also very pleased that the budget retains language that I and Republican WOOLSEY worked on with Chairman SPRATT to address the continuing waste fraud and abuse at the Department of Defense.

Again I want to thank and commend Chairman SPRATT for his work on this budget and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the conference report to accompany Senate Concurrent Resolution 70.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1233; adopting